

# UNITED STATES OWES A BILLION

Justice Brewer Calls Attention  
to National Habit of  
Extravagance.

## DISCOUNTING THE FUTURE DEBT-PAYING ALMOST A FOR- GOTTEN DUTY.

New York, Feb. 22.—A note of warning that our rapid growth of national greatness was leading to an unwise discounting of the future and developing a habit of extravagance, was sounded tonight in a speech delivered with judicial impressiveness by Justice David J. Brewer of the United States supreme court before a large audience which filled Cooper Union hall. The lecture was arranged by the board of education. The eminent jurist said:

"It is this republic more and more seeking only material development, luxurious living, ostentation and parade, or is it looking to the higher things, striving for that which makes for the better life? We cannot be blind to the fact that there is great striving after the material; that we do love the luxuries of life and to see them increase and multiply.

**Fondness for Display.**  
"We are manifesting a fondness for military and naval prowess. We are building up a large navy. We are buying both army and navy. We are buying luxuries by the cabinet yards, pictures and statues by the dozen. We want the biggest yachts, the most expensive and swiftest trains, the finest and most luxurious coaches.

"Our great expansion and rapid growth in population and resources is developing a habit of extravagance. We have been most unwise discounting the future. When the civil war closed the nation was in debt about \$2,000,000,000. It set resolutely to work to pay that debt, and it continued paying until the beginning of the Spanish war, but since then debt-paying has become almost a forgotten duty, and we now owe an interest-bearing debt of about \$1,000,000,000. More than half the forty-five states are in debt.

**Startling Figures.**  
"When we pass into the domain of municipal indebtedness the figures are simply startling. It will not do to say that all of this indebtedness has been unjustly or unwisely created. But there runs through much of it a poor matter of speculation, an unwisdom discounting the future, and an unjust casting of the burden on those who are to come after us.

"It makes the bond hold in the descendants of those who settled these colonies and laid the foundations of our national greatness on the liberal principles of justice, liberty and equal rights, to hear Dennis Kearney and men like him, who have just been welcomed to our shores and who have a home to brogue off their lips, stand on the street corners and cry out:

"America for the Americans" and "The Chinese are the enemy."

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"Yet even for the Chinese a ray of light is appearing. In obedience to an aroused public sentiment the brutal and barbarous rules for a while enforced for the purpose of excluding the Chinese have been largely modified, and now we are beginning to remember that they, too, are numbered in the brotherhood of man."

"I do not mean by this to say that it is the duty of the nation to welcome every immigrant any more than it is the duty of any man who has a home to open its doors to every one who wishes to come in. It is not merely the right, but the duty, of excluding those it deems unfit for a place within the limits of home or nation, but it does owe the duty of treating every one who desires to come decently and politely."

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